

in hardness, its reflective properties are thereby somewhat impaired. In connection with this, I may call attention to a statement by Mr. De la Rue, in the discussion which followed the reading of the paper, to the effect that "speculum metal reflects more actinic rays than silver on glass." If this be so, how is it that speculum metal mirrors impart a distinctly *redder* tone to the image than silver on glass?

Much as I would welcome any addition to our knowledge on the interesting, though controversial, subject of the light-ratio between reflectors and refractors, I am afraid we are doomed to wait a little longer before the question shall be finally set at rest.

Leicester :
1884, Dec. 13.

Observations of Stars occulted by the Moon during the Eclipse of Oct. 4, 1884, made at Clapham. By Edmund J. Spitta.

General Observations.—The sky was cloudless, but owing to the glare of the Moon no stars before No. 74 of the Pulkova list could be recognised with the 10-inch Calver Reflector, power 60. During totality the Moon was, generally speaking, exceedingly faint—indeed, at times barely visible to the naked eye—and presented none of the coppery colour usual on these occasions. It was bluish at the lower edge as seen in the inverting telescope about 10 o'clock, when the other portion seemed brighter than at any time. No markings were plain enough to be recognised.

An assistant called half seconds by the chronometer, time being observed an hour previous, and the observation reduced for collimation and azimuth errors, &c. G.M.T. was obtained by allowing 33 sec. W., taken from the 6-inch Ordnance chart. Owing to the observations being taken without a chronograph, no attempt was made for closer notation of the contacts; indeed, the nature of the phenomena does not seem to permit of greater accuracy—hence the similitude of the decimals in the corrected times.

Star. Pulk. List.	Mag.	G.M.T. Disappearance.	G.M.T. Reappearance.
74	9.3		9 50 4.83
76	10	9 16 52.83	
81	9.5	9 33 33.83	10 38 7.83
82	10	Observed, but badly noted.	10 15 52.83

Star. Pulk. List	Mag.	G.M.T. Disappearance.	G.M.T. Reappearance.
85	10	9 24 40.33	10 31 37.83
94	9-10	10 6 50.83	
95	9.5	10 12 10.33	
106	10	10 36 44.83	
108	9-10	10 37 32.83	

Note of an Observation of Saturn, Nov. 23, 1884.
By Edmund J. Spitta.

Whilst viewing *Saturn*, Nov. 23, with the 10-inch Calver Reflector, my attention was directed, by indirect vision, to an unusual illumination of the edge of the crape ring at the western or following elongation. On applying the *occulting eyepiece* and hiding the ball I found the brightness unmistakable; it lasted some little time, and then the ring resumed its normal aspect. The brightness was ill-defined all the while, but it gave me the impression I was looking at a star through the crape ring, or possibly some satellite whose orbit must lie *within* the rings between them and the ball. The observation was so unexpected that I cannot state its exact duration, but I believe it lasted about 10 minutes, time 11 25 to 11 35 \pm 1 min. G.M.T. Mr. Bryant has computed the exact position of ball and rings, and I have looked over several catalogues, but only find one star near enough to allow of the possibility of occultation. My friend, Mr. Coleman, however, has carefully, and he says under the most favourable conditions, examined the computed position, and finds four small stars, one of them the 11th magnitude, which lies, as nearly as he can judge, in the exact path of *Saturn*. His observation was made near the meridian.

I do not for one moment state I feel positive this brightness was due to a star, but its short duration and the finding of four in or about the path are facts pointing thereto; I merely note the observation, acting up to the motto of the Society.

Clapham Common.